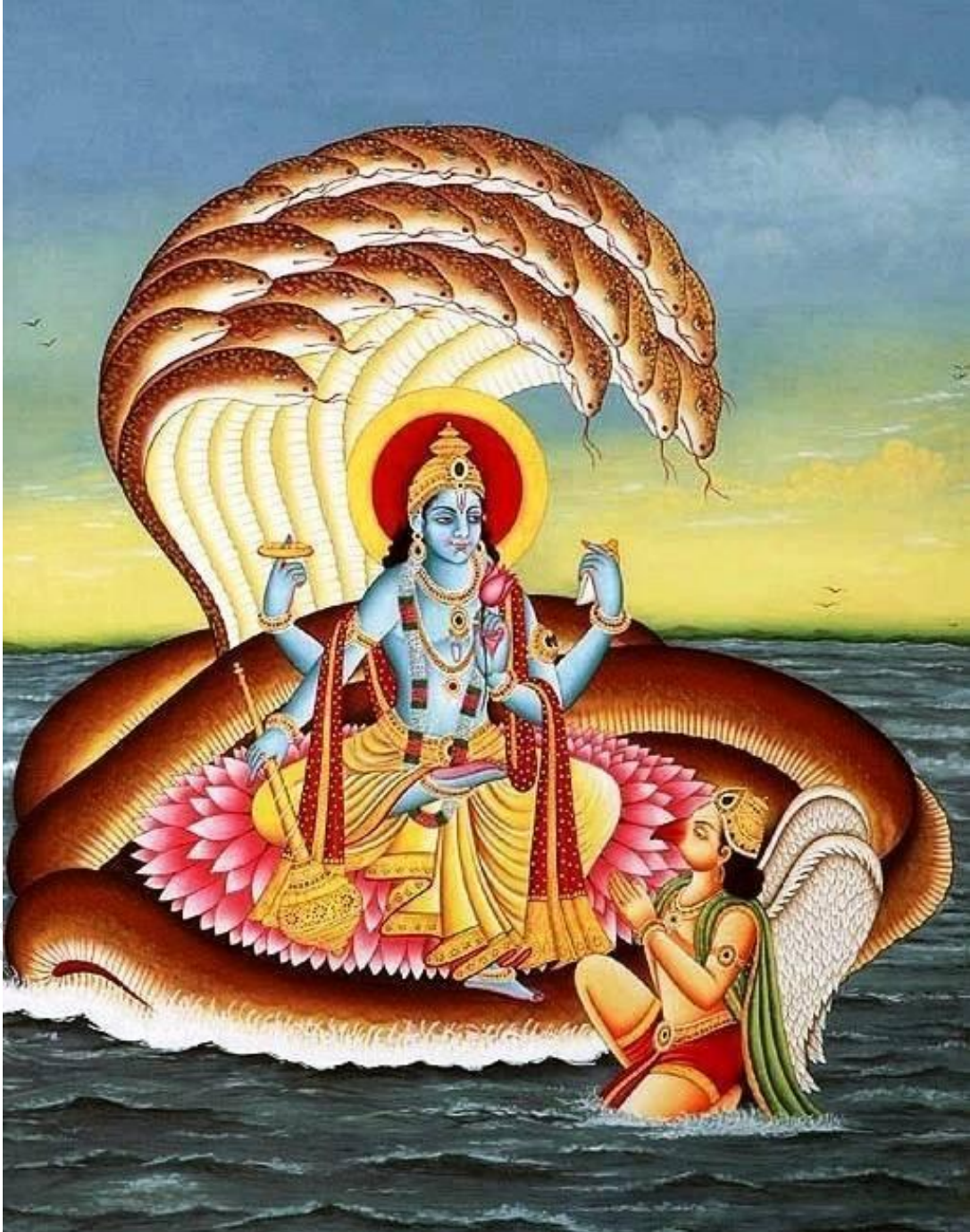




GARUDA PURANA

(Synopsis)

(Glory - Significance - Uniqueness - Merits - Myth & Realities)



What is Garuda Purana?

Garuda Purana is one of those Ashtaadasa Maha-Puranas composed by Sage Sri Vedavyasa the divine literary incarnation of Lord Vishnu.

It is called Garuda Purana because, it was Garuda the Divine King of Birds who first heard it from the Lord which was in the form of a dialogue between the two > upadesha from the Supreme God Hari sArvottama - SriManNarayana.

Later, Garuda recited the same to Sage Kashyapa that percolated down the line...

Garuda Purana contains about 19000 slokas and is classified as SaAttvika Purana.

What it deals with?

Like any other Vishnu related Puranas; Garuda Purana also deals with the incarnations of Lord Vishnu, geographical description and origin of the Universe; Creation; Procreation; Genealogy of Gods; Sages and great Kings; Time element; brief about Raamaayana; Mahaabhaaratha; Lord Sri Krishna; about the history of Solar and Lunar dynasties etc.....

Apart from the above; Garuda Purana also talks about the origin and propagation of Garuda and....

- description of Shodasa Samskaras;
- Varnaasrama Dharma;
- different kinds of Austerities; methods of worship;
- Praayaschitta (atoning for sins);
- Divine & Sacred Manthras;
- study of Gems and Jewels (Navarathnas); rare Gems;
- various types & characteristics of Saligrama;
- Navagrahas; Astrology related topics like electional astrology;

- Saamudrika Saasthra, predictions based on physical traits (science of Physiognomy);
- Vaasthu Saastra related to Temples and Houses;
- prominent places of Pilgrimage;
- various types of Charities and their significance;
- about Gau-daana;
- Medicine; antidotes etc.

What is the uniqueness of Garuda Purana?

Uniqueness of Garuda Purana lies in the fact that it is the only sacred text that talks about....

life after death,

the journey of the soul,

death and its aftermath, rebirth or reincarnation.

Even the modern science could not break the mystery of death and after; whereas, Garuda Purana has spelled out these realities ages before.

Among the Shodasa Samskaaras prescribed in Hindu Dharma for a human being, last one called AnthHyeshti saMskara or Aparā Karma is related to matters pertaining to funeral rites and other ceremonies.

Aparā Karma is exclusively and exhaustively covered in Garuda Purana.

Further, Garuda Purana also covers description about the...

- Nether worlds; Yama-Loka;
- various kinds of Naraka Lokas (Hell);
- experiences of the Soul when it leaves the body;
- cycle of countless births the Soul takes;
- Law of Karma; Fruits of Karma (action);
- various types of punishments for sins committed;
- about Moksha (Salvation);
- detailed description of the Funeral rites to be performed;

- its procedure including the rituals; followed by the
- ceremonies starting from death till the completion of one year
-
- including Sapindikarana Sraaddha;
- Asoucha Nirnaya; Sraaddha Vidhi;
- significance of Kusa Grass (Dharbha); Sesame seeds (Thila);
- Lavana Daana; significance of Pinda daana;
- Gaya Sraaddha etc.

Merits of Garuda Purana...

As a custom we find in traditional Hindu families, paarayana (reading) of Garuda Purana taking place whenever there is a death in the family till the completion of 13th day ceremony called Vaikunta Samaraadhana.

Great merits (punya) are acquired from reading or listening to Sri Garuda Purana during that time.

Those who narrate and the one who listens to this sacred Garuda Purana within ten days or even after the death of a person will get absolved from sins and is assured of happiness in this world as well as in the next world.

One who listens to Garuda Purana on the occasion of his Parents death, such parents would attain Mukthi and also he will be blessed with good progeny.

Listening to Garuda Purana; one will get rid of sorrow; suffering and will be blessed with peace and prosperity.

By listening to Garuda Purana,

Brahmana will be bestowed with Vidya (knowledge/jnyaAna);
Kshatriya with Land;
Vysya with wealth and a
Suudra will get refined.

Lord Vishnu would get pleased if the narrator of Garuda Purana is worshiped and it is as good as worshiping Lord Sri Hari. (Hari Preeti)

Giving daAna of any of the Shodasa Daanas to a Brahmin is prescribed after listening or paarayana (reading) of Garuda Purana.

Listening to or reading of Garuda Purana during Mahaalaya Pithru Paksha is sacred and meritorious that pleases the Pithru Devathas;

Donating the sacred book of Garuda Purana to a Brahmin is also highly meritorious.

By reading Garuda Purana one will get an opportunity to refine him-self and move on the righteous path.

Myth & Realities of Garuda Purana

There is an apprehension (myth) among people that, the text of Garuda Purana is inauspicious and hence cannot be read or the book be kept at home or should be read only on the occasion of death at home.

People hesitate to keep this sacred text at their homes or read it because of its fearful subject matter.

It is only a misconception due to the contents of Garuda Purana.

REALITIES

Reading Garuda Purana will definitely change the mindset of an evil-doer or a sinner.

Just because it deals with death and its aftermath it is incorrect to tag it as inauspicious.

In Bhagawad-Geeta sloka # 27 chapter # 2 (Saankhya Yoga); Lord Sri Krishna says that, JaAtasya hi dHruvo mRutyu... (indeed certain is death for the born and it is inevitable).

In fact, death is a reality though we hesitate to accept because of lack of its knowledge. Death grins only at those who have no understanding and that it has no pain for those who understand its implications and working.

In fact, the entire epic of Garuda Purana is in the form of glorious dialogue between Lord Vishnu and his Divine mount Lord Garuda > upadesha from the Supreme God Hari Sarvottama - Lord Vishnu;

When it was explained or narrated by Paramatma Vishnu Himself, how can it be inauspicious?

Even in Bhagawadgita; Lord Sri Krishna makes a reference to the law of Karma; death and its realities; reincarnation etc. But we don't consider Bhagawadgita as inauspicious; in fact we adore it.

A script that mentions about significance of, Thulasi; Cow; Thila (sesame); Kusa (Dharbha) is always auspicious and we find all these referred in Garuda Purana.

Thila and Dharbha have emerged out from the body of Lord Vishnu.

One need not get scared with the contents of Garuda Purana either to read or to listen.

It can be treated as learning; that enhances one's spiritual knowledge to discipline himself and to follow the righteous path.

Garuda Purana acts as a speed breaker for a person who is driving his life rashly.

It can be treated as a caution for wrongdoers and acts as a direction to avoid committing sins.

Is it not good to read Garuda Purana and understand its contents and implications when one is alive instead of someone may be kith and kin reading it after the death?

Everyone should read the sacred text of Garuda Purana at least once in their life time and there is nothing inauspicious about it and it is only an illusion.

It is a SaAttvika Purana.

Na vasudevabhaktaanaam-ashubham vidyate kvachit
Janma-mrutyu-jaraa-vyaadhi-bhayam naivopajaayate;

No ill-fate befalls on the devotees of Lord Vaasudeva (Maha Vishnu) and they will never have fear from birth; death; old age and diseases;

**Vanamaali Gadee Shaarngi Shankee Chakree Cha Nandakee
SrimanNaaraayano Vishnur -Vaasudevoabhirakshathu**

Samastha Pithrantharyaami
Bhaarateeramana MukhyaPraanaanthargatha
SriMadhvaVallabha Janaardhana Vaasudevah Priyathaam
Preetho Varado Bhavathu

Sri Krishnaarpanamasthu

'nAham kartA hariH kartA'
Hari Sarvottama - Vaayu Jeevottama
Sri GuruRaajoVijayate

**Compiled/composed by bhargavasarma
(nirikhi krishna bhagavan)**

www.bhargavasarma.blogspot.com